

REMARKS

Claims 10-12, 14, 15, 18, and 19 remain rejected as obvious over WO 92/17404 (Block) or GB 2,337,054 (Baillely) independently. These rejections should not be maintained against the claims as amended.

Claims 10 and 18 have been amend to recite processes in which a flowable acidic component consisting of stearic acid is applied to a particle comprising one or more alkali metal percarbonates. This combination is not taught or suggested by Block or Baillely.

Block teaches coating percarbonate-containing particles with a combination of higher and lower melting carboxylic acids. It does not teach or suggest a flowable acidic component consisting of, i.e., including only, stearic acid. Modifying Block to use only stearic acid would violate its most basic teachings. References may not used to show obviousness in a way that renders them unsatisfactory for their intended purpose. M.P.E.P. § 2143.01.

Baillely discloses coated perborate particles. It does not disclose or suggest the percarbonate-containing particles of applicants' process, nor does it disclose or suggest a flowable acidic component consisting of stearic acid. As to the first element, replacing perborate in Baillely with applicants' percarbonate runs counter to the entire focus of Baillely upon perborates. Again,

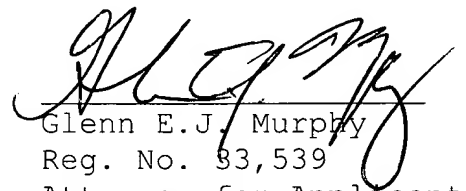
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references may not be modified to find obviousness where the modification undermines the basic disclosure of the reference. There also is nothing in Baillely to suggest selecting the claimed stearic acid alone for the coating material, out of Baillely's generic disclosure of C₁₂ to C₂₂ fatty acids. In fact, not one specific fatty acid within this class is mentioned in Baillely. For this reason as well one of skill would have found no motivation to modify the art to reach the invention.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks above, applicants ask for reconsideration and allowance of the claims. Should any fees be due for entry and consideration of this Amendment that have not been accounted for, the Commissioner is authorized to charge them to Deposit Account No. 01-1250.

Respectfully submitted,


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